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Tourists Are 'Fair Game'

In a transcript just released by the Senate Internal Security subcommittee it told the story of an American tourist whose light-hearted trip into East Berlin led to six months behind the cold walls of a secret police prison.

It is this sort of thing, documented, that President Eisenhower should throw in the face of Khrushchev if the red overlord continues his insulting lies and false charges against us.

The victim was a Philadelphia chiropodist, Walter Steinberg. In his testimony he said that during his imprisonment the secret police told him his plight was the fault of the U. S. government because it did not have a representative in East Germany.

Dr. Steinberg was involved in a minor traffic accident in East Berlin. He was riding with a Swiss from whom he had bought a camera. Both were arrested and Steinberg was immediately accused of being a Central Intelligence agent. Although friends reported his arrest he was not allowed to get in touch with U. S. authorities.

For six months he was subjected to the torture of questioning, unnerving discipline, brain-washing, poor diet and weeks in solitary confinement. He was "tried" and sentenced to 10 months. He was pardoned last March, but with the explanation that he was guilty of all charges against him.

Actually, the U. S. consul in West Berlin had tried to effect Steinberg's release from the Soviet commandant in East Berlin, whose only answer was that the U. S. would have to deal directly with East Berlin communists. That was the same blackmail attempt used by the Russians when the nine U. S. fliers forced down in a storm were held captive by the Russians who run East Germany as a colony of Moscow.

The chiropodist's health was so affected by the treatment given to him, he was unable to resume his work. He issues a timely warning to U. S. citizens who go abroad that they are "fair game" for exploitation by the communists if they should fall into their clutches.